

**METHODS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH—Volume 5—A. C. Corcoran, Editor-in-Chief.** The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 East Illinois Street, Chicago, 1952. 394 pages, \$7.50.

This most recent volume in a series devoted to descriptions of methods used in medical research contains three sections. The first, edited by Lyman C. Craig, is concerned with "Methods for Separation of Complex Mixtures and Higher Molecular Weight Substances" (countercurrent distribution, paper chromatography, electrophoresis and ultracentrifugation). The third section, edited by Melvin Cohn, describes "Immunochemical Methods for Determining Homogeneity of Proteins and Polysaccharides" (experimental production and separation of antibody-active proteins from sera, quantitative precipitin reactions, etc.).

The second and longest section (A. C. Corcoran, editor) discusses "Methods of Renal Study." In this, the emphasis is properly placed on subjects with but little immediate clinical application: for example, methods for determining rates of excretion of protein and formed elements in the urine are not mentioned, and only a few pages are given to practical methods of "renal function" determination. Aimed at the clinical and laboratory investigator, there are chapters on renal blood flow, water and electrolyte metabolism, bioassay of antidiuretic substances, in vitro studies of renal tubular excretion, electron microscopy, and much material relating to the production of hypertension and renal lesions in the rat together with measurement of arterial pressure and renal function in this animal.

As was the case with earlier volumes, the present one is thorough-going in details and critical if not always encyclopedic. It is recommended to those interested in such topics as were cited above; as the editor modestly hopes, it "will find its place in laboratories rather than libraries," but the latter should also find room for it.

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**THE OLD EGYPTIAN MEDICAL PAPYRI—Chauncey D. Leake, Vice-President, University of Texas, Medical Branch, Galveston.** University of Kansas Press, Lawrence, Kansas, 1952. 108 pages, \$2.00.

Dr. Leake, well known as medical historian and litterateur, presents in pleasant format an interesting description of the Egyptian medical papyri with special reference to the Hearst papyrus which he himself has studied. When one comes to the actual contents of the document Dr. Leake finds that Egyptian therapy was "empirically rational." The reviewer finds it difficult, however, to read much that is intelligently medically into all this, and while the contribution of these ancient documents to the history of civilization is invaluable it is the historian rather than the doctor who will profit from their study.

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**ELECTROTHERAPY AND ACTINOTHERAPY—A Textbook for Student Physiotherapists—2nd Edition—E. B. Clayton, M.B., B.Ch. (Cantab.), Consulting Physician to the Physical Treatment Department, Kings College Hospital, London.** Bailliere, Tindall and Cox, London (released through Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore), 1952. 452 pages, \$4.00.

As the title states, this is a textbook for British physical therapy students on electrotherapy which includes diathermy and various electrical currents for muscle stimulation and on actinotherapy which includes infrared and ultraviolet radiations. The exposition is done poorly and with too much emphasis on elementary physics and too little on its application to therapeutic modalities. There are no illustrations and the description of methods is too pithy to be useful.

This book is of no value to physicians and is a poor textbook for students of physical therapy.

**ESSENTIALS OF PUBLIC HEALTH—2nd Edition—William P. Shepard, B.S., M.D., M.A., Third Vice-President, Health and Welfare Division, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Clinical Professor of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine; Charles Edward Smith, M.D., D.P.H., Dean School of Public Health, University of California, President, California State Board of Health; Rodney Rau Beard, M.D., M.P.H., Executive and Professor of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine; and Leon Benedict Reynolds, A.B., Sc.D., Professor of Hydraulic and Sanitary Engineering, Stanford University.** J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 581 pages, \$6.50.

"The question has been raised," Dr. Shepard and his collaborators write, "as to how much of the high military rejection rate is a medical responsibility. This is a little like asking who spilled the milk. Our concern is, not whose fault it is, but what can be done to prevent its future recurrence. It matters little whether the blame be placed on parents, schools, public health agencies, physicians or youth themselves. Here is a national problem of first magnitude. None can deny that medical advice and leadership must play a large part in its solution."

Dr. Shepard, a vice-president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, who recently served as president of the American Public Health Association, and who is best known for his efforts to fuse the energies of private physicians, health agencies, and other responsible civic and business groups working for improved community health, himself exemplifies the private practitioner who has given his professional life to effective "advice and leadership."

His book brings together for all private physicians a multitude of facts and statistics, all revised for the 1952 edition, to serve as a reference handbook on such subjects as environmental sanitation (water, foods, and sewage), communicable disease control, school health services, health education, industrial health, statistics, and public health nursing. It defines and explains public health operations and the preventive medical program.

The book provides ready answers to quarantine procedures. It has an excellent catalogue of common industrial poisons. It lists the important infectious diseases, describing them and their countermeasures. One long table describes the collection and interpretation of laboratory specimens of the diseases.

These days, when the private physician has come into the public eye in a political way, albeit through no doing of his own, it is increasingly necessary that he know all that is possible about the important and successful functions of his public health agencies and their related groups. He should know their objectives and methods, and how essential his own work is to his community, and what procedures are set in motion by his communications to his public health agencies for the good of all.

The book is the result of considerable intelligent thinking. It will answer many questions. It will explain many arguments. It should be read by every physician.

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**CULDOSCOPY—A New Technic in Gynecologic and Obstetric Diagnosis—Albert Decker, M.D., D.O.G., F.A.C.S., Clinical Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics, New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital.** W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 148 pages with 50 figures, \$3.50.

This monograph by Dr. Decker represents the first attempt by the author of the procedure to group together in a single volume all that is available in the current literature concerning the newest method of visualization of the female pelvis. Culdoscopy is a new diagnostic technic unknown to many physicians, and the author has therefore

set forth in clear and understandable language the details of culdoscopic examination of the pelvis so that one previously unfamiliar with the procedure may be left with a working knowledge of the technic.

The book opens with the history of pelvic visualization, and such related subjects as diagnostic pneumoperitoneum with utilization of the knee-chest position and the diagnostic and therapeutic uses of posterior colpotomy are included. Value of the instrument in ectopic pregnancy, endometriosis, and infertility problems is discussed at length. Especially interesting is the section regarding its use in infertility problems which stresses diagnosis by direct visualization of minor pelvic pathology which interferes with tubal and ovarian function and the advantages of the determination of tubal patency or block under direct vision. The last portion of the book is devoted to case histories illustrating clinical application of the method.

Those who have gained experience with the culdoscope are enthusiastic about its use and agree with TeLinde, who states in the foreword at the beginning of the book that it does not appear to be "just another gadget, but a most effective gynecologic diagnostic instrument." A knowledge of the instrument seems desirable for all who encounter problems in gynecologic diagnosis, and the price of the book is low enough to encourage its widespread distribution to the profession.

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**THE HUMAN PELVIS**—Carl C. Francis, A.B., M.D., Assistant Professor of Anatomy, Department of Anatomy, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. The C. V. Mosby Company, 1952. 210 pages, \$5.00.

This slender volume was written by an anatomist to serve as a text for a course in applied anatomy for surgical residents and practicing surgeons. It describes quite briefly not only the bones, muscles, vessels and nerves of the pelvis, but deals also with the pelvic portions of the intestinal and urinary tracts, and with the genitalia, both male and female. The final chapter is a very condensed summary of the embryological development of the rectum, urinary tract, and genitalia. There are sixty-one illustrations in black and white, some original, many borrowed from other textbooks, none particularly outstanding. As one might anticipate, a guide book of this sort offers nothing new, and most of the text is so brief that the volume would be useful only for reviewing the highlights of pelvic architecture. In this respect the book undoubtedly will be of aid to those particular students for whom it was designed. For others it appears not to be a worthwhile investment.

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**FUNDAMENTALS OF PSYCHIATRY**—5th Edition—Edward A. Strecker, M.D., Sc.D., LL.D., Litt.D., F.A.C.P., Professor of Psychiatry and Chairman of the Department, University of Pennsylvania Undergraduate and Graduate Schools of Medicine. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 237 pages, 21 illustrations, \$4.50.

This is the fifth edition of a very popular text "dedicated to the ever increasing number of medical students, internes, residents and practitioners in all the areas of medicine who, wishing to be complete physicians, realize that man is unified and total in his functioning . . ." The author emphasizes the need for an increased number of psychiatrists; that one of every twelve school children will need psychiatric attention in adult life; that more than one million are destined to become patients in mental hospitals; and that emotional immaturity can be more destructive than an "H" bomb. Following the brief introduction concerning the historical background of psychiatry, its relationship to other specialties in medicine, and the development of the concept of psychosomatic medicine, the etiological factors, predispos-

ing and exciting causes, both physical and psychological, of mental illnesses are described. Considerable attention is given to the classification of various kinds of mental illnesses. The details of the psychiatric examination are described, including procedures to follow in a mental examination. Definitions of psychiatric terms are presented in a simple, uncomplicated manner and illustrated by many clinical examples. The "organic" and "functional" psychoses, the psychoneuroses, and the defective reaction types (mental deficiency—a term which the author does not like) are delineated and illustrated by short case reports and a series of lucid diagrams. Treatment of various kinds, including the drastic therapies (insulin shock, electroshock, prefrontal leukotomy), psychotherapy, "support therapy," and group therapy are all briefly considered. Special chapters on war psychiatry and psychiatric nursing are presented and a glossary defining commonly used psychiatric words concludes the volume.

For the student and beginner, this volume is a clear, succinct account of present-day psychiatry.

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**BACITRACIN—A Review and Digest of the Literature Up to and Including January, 1952.** Research Division, S. B. Penick & Company, 50 Church Street, New York, 1952. 127 pages.

This book is a tract designed to promote bacitracin. It underplays the serious toxic actions of this agent and overplays its potential value in therapy. Preparations of bacitracin for local application to the skin are extremely valuable but are dismissed in this volume in a few pages. Rare cases require systemic administration of this agent and all the rest of the book is essentially devoted to this aspect of the subject. The physician who wishes to treat a patient in this way may wish to refer to the extensive bibliography contained in this book but he would be well advised to avoid the text.

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**THE CLINICAL USE OF FLUID AND ELECTROLYTE**—John H. Bland, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Vermont College of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 259 pages, \$6.50.

Following a general review of body water and electrolytes under normal conditions, the author has described the recognition and treatment of their abnormalities such as are associated with congestive heart failure and its management, renal diseases, diabetes mellitus, surgical operations, shock, other forms of stress, etc. Special attention is given to the particular problems of both very young and aged patients.

Although its physical appearance is unattractive, the book succeeds in presenting large amounts of useful information. Perhaps it is the lack of an index which nullifies attempts to find material on the use of hormones in the treatment of the nephrotic syndrome or on the disturbances associated with chronic hepatitis and ascites, and perhaps some might disagree with a few statements.

These, however, are minor criticisms. The monograph is clearly useful both to students of medicine and to practitioners.

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**THE KNEE AND RELATED STRUCTURES—Injuries, Deformities, Diseases and Disabilities**—Philip Lewin, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.L.C.S., Professor and Chairman of Bone and Joint Surgery, Northwestern University Medical School. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, 1952. 914 pages, 333 figures, and 2 colored plates, \$16.00.

This particular volume is a much better organized and presentable work than a similar volume published by the same author on the ankle. In general, it follows the same format as the previous book on the ankle, but it has covered